

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Delays Lead to Cancellation of new Debris Contract **Will not Impact Mission**

The Army Corps of Engineers has decided to cancel a new debris contract that was awarded recently to Necaise Brothers Construction Co., Inc. The decision followed months of delays in the award process caused by protests by other firms. The Corps has been working for over 6 months to engage Mississippi firms.

Despite successfully defending multiple protests against the government's solicitation, the recently awarded contract is under 3 new protests. Protests are reviewed by the Government Accountability Office. The GAO process to rule on each protest will take 100 days, or until approximately mid-July to resolve. The Corps' expects the debris mission to be substantially complete by May 31st.

As part of this decision, the Small Business Administration section 8(a) portion of the solicitation will also be cancelled. That portion had not yet been awarded.

The action will not affect ongoing work being done by the current debris contractor Ashbritt of Pompano Beach, Florida.

The delays are a matter of law and beyond the control of the Vicksburg District. The anticipated length of time it will take to resolve the protest issue, essentially precludes the District from being able to make an efficient and effective transition to a new contractor. Instead we will continue to assign work to Ashbritt until mission completion.

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For more information or interviews, contact Frank Worley, Deputy, Public Affairs, (601) 631-5053, or reply to this e-mail. Or Alicia Embrey in Biloxi at 386-503-1140.

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New Debris Contract Time Line

-- Oct 05-began work on new acquisition plan

17 Dec 05-advance approval to advertise debris solicitation

20 Dec 05-approval of J&A supported by an Acquisition Plan

17 Jan 06-first pre-award protest by AshBritt, Inc.

30 Jan 06-revised and expanded pre-award protest by AshBritt, Inc.

10 Feb 06-Tri-County protests to GAO

18 Mar 06-AshBritt reached the \$500 million cap on the original base amount-option exercised

20 Mar 06-GAO rules in favor of Corps and denies AshBritt's protest

28 Mar 06-GAO dismisses Tri-County protest for failure to prosecute

31 Mar 06-HubZone portion of the solicitation canceled for lack of work

31 Mar 06-Civil Engineering Plus protests

03 Apr 06-GAO dismisses Civil Engineering Plus protest as untimely

07 Apr 06-award of the unrestricted to Necaise Brothers

10 Apr 06-post-award protest by AshBritt

14 Apr 06-post-award protest by D&J

Future dates:

19 Jul 06-GAO decision date for new AshBritt protest.